

# MINK AND HONEY

**MINK:** Mink production in Illinois is located primarily in the northeastern corner of the state, with the heaviest concentration of mink operations in Lake, Kane, and McHenry counties. Only a few operations are located out of this main area. Illinois ranks twelfth nationally in mink pelt production. Production of mink pelts in Illinois increased four percent in 2002 to 53,500 pelts. Females bred to produce kits in 2003 totaled 14,300, up four percent from the number of females bred to produce kits in 2002.

## MINK: Ranches, females bred and pelts produced, Illinois, 1993-2002

Year	Ranches producing pelts	Females bred 1/	Pelts produced		
			Standard	Other	Total pelts
Thousand					
1993	11	14.7	36.1	5.7	41.8
1994	10	13.4	44.2	6.1	50.3
1995	10	14.3	43.5	4.9	48.4
1996	9	14.7	50.9	5.8	56.7
1997	9	12.2	55.5	6.5	62.0
1998	10	12.8	43.2	6.4	49.6
1999	8	12.8	42.7	6.6	49.3
2000	7	12.9	37.0	8.6	45.6
2001	7	13.8	41.1	10.5	51.6
2002	7	14.3	41.9	11.6	53.5

1/ To produce kits the following year.

**HONEY:** Illinois honey production in 2002 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 720,000 pounds, up 58 percent from 2001. Prices for 2002 Illinois honey averaged \$1.42 per pound, down 16 cents from the 2001 price. The total value of honey production was \$1,022,000, up 42 percent from 2001. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and cooperatives.

## HONEY: Number of colonies of bees, production and value, Illinois, 1993-2002

Year	Number of colonies	Yield per colony	Production	Average price per pound	Value of production
	<b>Thousands</b>	<b>Pounds</b>	<b>Thousand pounds</b>	<b>Dollars</b>	<b>Thousand dollars</b>
1993	15	48	720	.96	691
1994	13	80	1,040	1.04	1,082
1995	11	74	814	1.13	920
1996	11	74	814	1.35	1,099
1997	7	69	483	1.27	613
1998	9	71	639	1.19	760
1999	9	66	594	1.15	683
2000	8	61	488	1.17	571
2001	6	76	456	1.58	720
2002	9	80	720	1.42	1,022